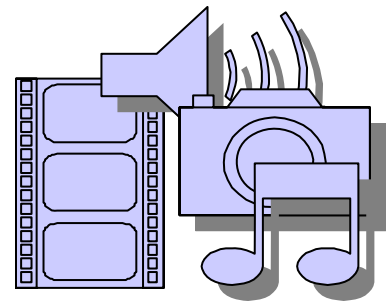


WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Digital Storytelling with Photo Story *making show~n~tell cool again*

What is digital storytelling? As the name implies, it is the practice of using computer-based tools to tell stories. Digital stories typically contain a combination of computer-based images, text, recorded audio narration, video clips and/or music.



Why would I want to incorporate digital storytelling into my classroom? The real question is – *Why not?*

Not only can teachers create digital stories to introduce, teach and/or review concepts, but this strategy can be used for a variety of project-based assessments. More importantly, students can demonstrate

their understanding of skills acquired during a lesson or unit while having the opportunity to imagine, plan, design, compose and invent – skills all crucial to 21st Century learning. And what a great way to hook reluctant readers and writers in all subjects!



Storytelling can also satisfy the NETS for Students in the areas of Creativity & Innovation, Communication & Collaboration, Digital Citizenship, and Technology Operations & Concepts. But most of all, digital storytelling can inspire students.

Uses for Digital Storytelling: The possibilities are endless when it comes to creating digital stories, but here are some ideas to consider as potential themes for Photo Story projects:

Talking Books	Famous People, Historians, Building, Landmarks, etc.	Scientific Processes
Field Trip Diary	My Hero	Biographies & Autobiographies
Book Reports	Vocabulary Activities	Advertisements
	How-to Directions	Short Stories

The best part about digital storytelling/Photo Story is that it can be used at any grade level and in any content area!

Tips for Creating a Photo Story:

1. Pre-Planning Tasks (story boarding, idea mapping, note cards, flow charts, outline, create draft(s), purpose)
2. Research (Internet sites, video, books, magazines, newspapers, data, interviews, surveys...)
3. Upload Photos / Pictures
4. Last slide **must** include works cited (images, music, voice...**Be sure to cite it all!**)
5. Add Text / Voice Narration
6. Special Effects / Transitions
7. Music (cite sources...be sure it is meaningful to the topic)
8. Present / Peer Reviews

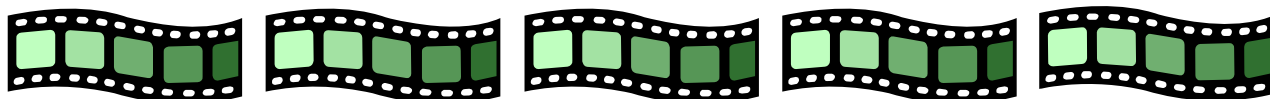
(Adapted from Bernajean Porter's notes - www.digitales.us)

Essentials Elements of Digital Storytelling:

1. Overall Purpose of the Story <i>(What is the main point of the story?)</i>	6. Pacing of the Narrative <i>(The rhythm of the story and how slowly or quickly it progresses)</i>
2. The Narrator's Point of View <i>(What is the perspective of the author?)</i>	7. Use of a Meaningful Audio Soundtrack <i>(Music or other sounds that support and embellish the storyline)</i>
3. A Dramatic Question <i>(A key question that keeps the viewer's attention and will be answered by the end of the story)</i>	8. Quality of the images, video & multimedia <i>(Image and video that support and embellish the storyline)</i>
4. The Choice of Content <i>(Making the topic come alive in a powerful way to connect the story to the audience)</i>	9. Economy of the Story Detail <i>(Using just enough content to tell the story without overloading the viewer)</i>
5. Clarity of Voice <i>(A way to personalize the story to help the audience understand the context)</i>	10. Good Grammar and Language Usage

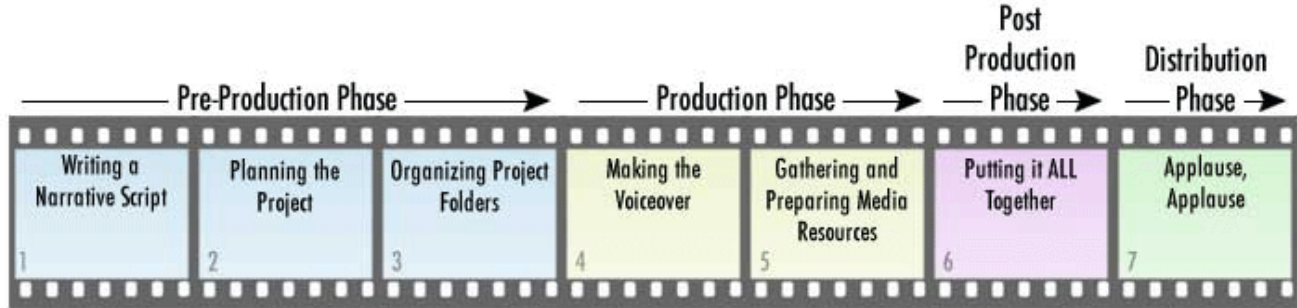
For more information about how these elements can be used in the classroom, you may be interested in the following articles:

- [The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling](http://www.coe.uh.edu/~brobin/Educational-Uses-DS.pdf) – <http://www.coe.uh.edu/~brobin/Educational-Uses-DS.pdf>
- [A Multilevel Approach to Using Digital Storytelling in the Classroom](http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/multilevel-approach.pdf) – <http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/multilevel-approach.pdf>



Developing your product:

Remember it is all about the content – and then the tool. ☺



Tutorials:

- Jakes's Online Photo Story Tutorials and Screencasts – <http://www.jakesonline.org/photostory.htm>
- Photo Story How-To Guides – <http://www.windowsphotostory.com>

Text Screen Templates:

Blank slides for Photo Story Projects – A collection of blank color slides/text screen templates for downloading and usage as title slides, etc. in the process of digital storytelling. Great for creating text screens!

<http://hs.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us/Solid%20Color%20Blocks/area.htm>

Resources:

- 50+ Web 2.0 Ways To Tell a Story – Examples of 50+ tools available for digital storytelling – <http://cogdogroo.wikispaces.com/50+Ways>
- Classrooms for the Future Photostory Wikispace – Elements of digital storytelling, student samples, tutorials, *** copyright free materials – <http://cff-photostory.wikispaces.com>
- Creating Your Photo Story – Examples and ideas – http://www.teachnet.ie/innovative_teacher/default.asp?NCID=365
- Digital Storytelling – Tons of links pertaining to digital storytelling in education – <http://electronicportfolios.org/digistory/index.html>
- The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling – Getting started & storyboarding ideas, examples, tutorials, rubrics, alignment to standards – <http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/powerpoint.html>
- The Digital Storytelling Cookbook – Getting jump started & storyboarding ideas, samples – <http://www.storycenter.org/memvoice/pages/cookbook.html>

Additional Resources:

- Digitales: The Art of Telling Digital Stories – Tons of resources, storymaking files, peer reviews, scoring guides – A great resource! – <http://www.digitales.us>
- Why should I have students create a Photo Story wiki – storyboards, rubrics, image and audio links, copyright info, tips & tricks – <http://cffquakers.wikispaces.com/Photo+Story>

ArticleS of Interest:

- How to use digital storytelling in your classroom – <http://www.edutopia.org/node/1418>
- The Power of Digital Storytelling in the Classroom: Tell Stories with Technology – <http://www.edutopia.org/power-digital-storytelling-classroom>

If you have any questions or concerns and/or need additional assistance as you journey into the world of digital storytelling, please contact me.

Good luck with your Photo Story adventure!

Jamie ☺

